

Parents Behind Bars: Children of Incarcerated Family Members

Answers to children's difficult questions.

An educator and caregiver's toolkit
to Idaho's criminal justice system.



Idaho Criminal Justice Commission Children of Incarcerated Parents Guiding Principles

The Idaho Criminal Justice Commission, through the collective efforts of our members and community partners, are committed to improving the lives of Children of Incarcerated Parents and their families by building private/public partnerships to identify opportunities to increase communication, improve collaboration and develop good public policy.

“On any given day in America, it is estimated that more than 1.5 million children have a parent incarcerated in a state or federal prison. And more than 10 million children are living with a parent who has come under some form of criminal justice supervision at some point in the child’s life” (*Annie E. Casey Foundation, Children and Families with Incarcerated parents, 2008*). ***In a 2004 study conducted by the Urban Institute of offenders incarcerated by the Idaho Department of Correction, 55 percent of males and 81 percent of females had at least one child.***

The guiding principles are designed to create awareness and act as a reminder to those agencies serving Children of Incarcerated Parents that when parents are sent to prison their children’s fundamental needs for safety, belonging and security need to be considered to break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration.

Guiding Principles:

1. Public policies and systems should minimize harm by principles that acknowledge the needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents.
2. Children and caregivers need support, safety, security and the opportunity to reconcile their feelings about their family member’s incarceration.
3. Agency policies and interventions should focus where appropriate on the needs of Children of Incarcerated Parents. These policies and interventions should strive to minimize trauma and help to facilitate healthy connections among children and family members using safe and appropriate methods.
4. Children of Incarcerated Parents and their caregivers need systems and resources in place that help to facilitate the child’s personal needs, family stability and reduce the economic strain caused by incarceration.
5. Children of Incarcerated Parents benefit from services and supports that reduce the stigma, shame and trauma of parental incarceration, bolster healthy child and adolescent development and increase their likelihood of school success.
6. Incarcerated Parents and their families benefit from services provided to parents before, during and after incarceration that help build stronger family relationships, constructively manage conflict, strengthen parenting skills and prepare parents to be responsible and pro-social members of their community.

Adapted from *Family Members Behind Bars--Difficult questions children ask and the answers that might help. A caregiver's guide to Montana's criminal justice system from arrest to release.* September 2009. Developed by the Montana Alliance of Families touched by Incarceration (MAFTI).

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The National Bill of Rights for Children of the Incarcerated

Every child with a parent in prison (or an alternative to prison) has the following rights:

1. To be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest;
2. To be heard when decisions are made about me;
3. To be considered when decisions are made about my parent;
4. To be well-cared for in my parent's absence;
5. To speak with, see and touch my parent;
6. To support as I face my parent's incarceration;
7. To not be judged, blamed or labeled because my parent is incarcerated;
8. To have a lifelong relationship with my parent.



*The *Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents* was written in 2003 by Californians Nell Bernstein, (journalist and author) and Gretchen Newby (a practitioner in serving children of prisoners), outlining the principles needed to ensure the well-being of these at-risk children.

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HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

If you have suddenly become the primary caregiver to your grandchildren while their parents are in jail, charged with a crime, this manual is for you.

If you are a foster parent racking your brain for answers for the five-year-old crying at night for her Mommy who was sentenced for 10 years, this manual is for you.

Perhaps law enforcement came to your home last week and arrested your boyfriend or husband in connection to a crime, led him away in handcuffs in front of your screaming toddler, this manual is for you.

If you are a teacher or a school counselor who knows that your student's dad had been arrested last night, this toolkit may be helpful.

You are among a unique group of caregivers and educators whose parents or other family members have been thrust into the criminal justice system for a few days, a year, a decade or maybe for life. You are in contact with these children who are in acute crisis who need answers when it seems as though none exist.

Though there are no answers that fit all difficult questions the child or student may ask—each circumstance is unique. This toolkit is designed for you to go through and find answers to questions that may apply to you and your child or student. The information for you, the caregiver or educator, is in black type. Answers for the child/student are in colored type and quotation marks.

These answers are designed for young children. Teenagers or older children may have an easier time understanding the criminal justice process and will have different questions.

We have divided this toolkit into various stages of the criminal justice system—from arrest to release. Universal questions (on page 7) are the most common questions a child or student will most likely ask frequently as the family member progresses through the criminal justice system.

This toolkit was written and edited, and reviewed by dozens of Idaho stakeholders ranging from caregivers, counselors, teachers, child development professionals to child abuse prevention workers. We all hope this will be useful as you work with this vulnerable youth population.

For additional information and support, we included a resource list on page 47. These resources are free information which will offer additional answers for caregivers and educators alike. The Family Corrections Network (FCN), for example, offers a library full of information specifically for caregivers. We realize not everyone has access to the internet. We suggest the use of our local library for computer access or a friend who may be able to print out this information for you.

FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS

When a family member, such as a mom or dad, go to prison, it may be very difficult for everyone involved. For some children, the experience could be emotionally devastating or even traumatic. For others, it may be less serious—sometimes even a relief.

The overall experience and impact on the child depends on the child’s age, understanding of the situation, and reactions of others—particularly their family members.

Children may experience different feelings, multiple feelings at once, or one after the other in sequence. Sometimes these are feelings of sadness, guilt, fear, disbelief, anxiety, anger and/or powerlessness. It is important to help children understand and work through their feelings.

From How to explain...Jails and Prisons...to Children: A Caregiver’s Guide, Oregon Department of Corrections Children of Incarcerated Parents Project, Elizabeth Sazie, MD, MPH, Diane Ponder, LCSW and Juanita Johnson.



10 TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND EDUCATORS...

FROM CAREGIVERS

By Ann Adalist-Estrin, Children of Prisoners Library, Family and Connections Network. Copyright 2003.

1. Talk about feelings with children. Notice feelings of sadness or anger. A child may not have the words to express their feelings, so you may give them the words through your observations. "You look sad. Are you missing Daddy?" Or, "When you get that angry at little things, I am wondering if you are also angry at our mom for going to jail?" or, "I wish your father could have seen you play ball tonight and I bet you did too."
2. Be as realistic and honest with children as possible. Do not give them misinformation such as "your mom is in the hospital" or "your dad is working outside of town for a few months." Be truthful. "Mommy won't be coming home for a very long time. It will be four more birthdays (or two more summer vacations)."
3. Remember to keep your feelings separate from each child's. "We feel different things about this. I am angry at your dad and don't really want to see him but I want you to go because he's your dad and you love him."
4. Set up family discussion times. For example, make Tuesday night a family "meeting" or Wednesday night a time to "wait for dad's call and talk about how we are all doing." Make Saturday morning's breakfast as an "off-limits talk about prisons and jail", a moment of relief for those who need a break from the subject.
5. Talk about family's choice to tell others or keep it a secret from certain individuals.
6. Let children know why the choice is necessary. Provide plenty of opportunity to talk about it at home.
7. Encourage children to write or talk to their parents whenever possible. It is important to keep a relationship with their family member.
8. Help children start a picture or story that their parent adds onto, and then the child adds on, and so on by mailing it back and forth.
9. Read with your children. Encourage your library to include books and pamphlets about children of prisoners in its collection.
10. Be an advocate. Get support and help for the children yourself... through friends, clergy, counselors, other educators or professionals.

Here is a list of other free FCN brochures available on the internet at www.fcnetwork.org/cpl/cplindex.html.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Conversations – Questions Children Ask | 8. What do Children of Prisoners Need? |
| 2. Risk and protection | 9. Impact of Parental Incarceration |
| 3. Visiting Mom or Dad | 10. Common Stress Points |
| 4. Jail and Prison Procedures | 11. Different Children/Different Behaviors |
| 5. Communication Tips for Families | 12. Tips for Fostering Trust & Safety |
| 6. Caring for children of Prisoners | 13. The Caregiver's Situation |
| 7. Questions from Caregivers | |

MOST COMMON QUESTIONS A CHILD MIGHT ASK AT EVERY STAGE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

To help children work through their curiosity and feelings, we've included common questions a child will ask when their family member is in jail, prison, or community corrections placement such as drug/alcohol treatment programs. Our answers are suggestions which you can tailor to fit your particular circumstance.

Where is my family member?

Often times, adults tend to sugarcoat information about family members who have committed crimes because they want to protect children from the painful truth. Lying to a child is never a good idea. The truth has a way of coming out eventually. A lie revealed by someone else may cause the child to doubt the caregiver or educator he or she desperately needs to trust.

Telling child that the family member works in another city, state, or in the hospital only increases anxiety. Why doesn't (s)he ever come to see me? Will (s)he die or is (s)he dead? The child will see that other children whose parents are away will see them at least once in a while and become confused. Without accurate information, a child might believe matters are worse than they are.

Why did my Mom or Dad go to jail?

People are sent to jail or prison because they did not obey the law. Laws are important rules that tell us how people should or should not behave. Children have rules for behavior, too. When a child breaks the rules, they may have a consequence such as a time-out or lose privileges. Prisons and jails are like long time-outs for grown-ups who broke the law.

Even children or teenagers break laws and are sent to special prisons because they have committed a crime, just like grown-ups. They would have to do something like hurting another person badly in order for this to happen. This does not happen often (Sazie, Ponder & Johnson, 2001).

"Your family member is there because he or she has committed a crime and their actions have consequences."

You would let them know what the consequence may be.

When will he or she be coming home?

People in prison usually know the approximate date of their release. However, release dates are seldom certain due to too many variables in the criminal justice process. It is probably best not to give the child a firm date on which the loved one will return home. For example, a family member who is eligible for a parole hearing might tell the caregiver that (s)he is getting out of prison soon, but the parole board may not grant the parole.

"We don't know for sure but we do know that she will not be home for Christmas." "The judge will decide today if your family member can come home."

This is appropriate in cases where the family member received a prison sentence with a parole eligibility restriction: *"She will not be home until you are all grown up, but you can certainly visit."*

When can I see my family member?

In most cases, family members can visit in jail, prison or other correctional facilities. The Idaho Department of Correction allows children to visit their parents in prison if the contact is safe and appropriate.

Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by their adult parent or guardian. Proof of guardianship must be provided. Both the Application and the Minor Child supplement forms must be completed and accepted prior to visitation. These applications can be obtained at the Idaho Department of Corrections or at http://www.corr.state.id.us/our_facilities/visiting_application.htm. Persons under the age of eighteen (18) are prohibited from visiting unless they are immediate family members as described in the definition of immediate family. Their adult parent or guardian, who must also be an approved visitor, must accompany persons under eighteen (18) years of age. Proof of guardianship (certified copy of birth certificate, adoption papers, and/or other court documents) must be provided.

“The jailer said we could come tomorrow. We will visit right after you get home from school.”

“Every prison has different rules about visiting. I will call Monday and see what the rules are.”

“The prison is a long way from here. We won’t be able to visit until spring break.”

Some children may be so angry, confused or hurt through this experience that they may not want to visit their family member in prison. They may not want anything to do with them. Validating the child’s feelings may be helpful. Sometimes encouraging the child to draw a picture or write them a letter may be helpful in maintaining contact with the family member.

Can I touch my family member?

If the family member committed a crime against any child, contact may be restricted with children. Most correctional facilities, even in Idaho, allow limited physical contact between parents and children.

“You can sit on her lap and she will read you a story.”

“She will hug and kiss you like always.”

He will be behind the glass so you will not be able to touch him but you can talk to him on the telephone in the prison.”

What will happen to me?

Children may undergo many changes in their lives while their family member is in prison. Children may feel insecure about their life currently and what may happen to them in the future.

If a child is separated from siblings, tell him/her that they will be with adults who will try their best to keep them safe also. Some siblings separated during a parent’s incarceration may never be reunited. Perhaps a caregiver is able to care for an infant and not the school aged sibling. Avoid dates of reunion unless you are absolutely sure.

Some of the questions below may guide discussion, even answers, to provide reassurance to children:

- How long will my parent be in jail or prison?
- Will I live in the same place?
- Will I have to move?
- Who will I live with?
- Will I be able to live with my parent when he or she gets out of jail or prison?

“We don’t know yet where you will stay while your family member is in prison.”

“You will stay with me until he comes home.”

“Your grandparents will take care of you and your brothers until your family member comes home.”

Is my family member okay?

A child who watches a television program that depicts a prison or prisoners may have a distorted view of what jail really is. They may think of jail as dangerous, noisy, scary where people are hurt or killed. They may experience fear, anxiety, sadness and perhaps guilt or shame about their loved ones behind bars. Usually, the stereotypes about the criminal justice system are not true, but injury or death of a family member may be possible.

“Your family member has food and water, a warm place to sleep and comfortable clothes. The people who work in the prison/jail/treatment center work hard to make sure that everyone is safe.”

What will he or she do there?

“Your family member will have to follow rules in the prison. She might go to school to learn about how to obey laws, be less angry, stop using alcohol or illegal drugs and/or be a better parent. She will eat, sleep, exercise and talk with other people working and living in the prison.”

Is it my fault? Does (s)he blame me?

NO!

Many children feel guilty when their parent goes to prison because they believe that they have caused it to happen.

In domestic violence situations, the child might have called the police, or been the reason an adult called the police.

“You did the right thing by calling the police because your family member may have hurt you or someone else.”

It is very important to provide children with a nonjudgmental, relaxed, unhurried and safe place to express their feelings, thoughts and beliefs about why their parent was incarcerated. It is important to help children realize:

- There are negative consequences to breaking the law
- They are not responsible for either the parent’s behavior or consequences of that behavior.

“It is not your fault that your family member committed a crime. She is paying the consequences now.”

Does (s)he still love me?

Most parents love their children regardless of their current circumstance.

“Your dad will always love you. He might be angry right now, but he still loves you.”

If you do not believe this is true in your situation, your answer will need to be a little more creative.

“Sometimes people who commit crimes are very mixed up and they do not know how they feel about anyone.”

Is it okay if I feel confused, sad or angry?

“All feelings are okay. Sometimes it helps to talk to other people like a friend or trusted grown-up about your feelings.”

Is it okay if I still love my family member? Is it okay to not love my family member anymore?

Children who have undergone the worst physical, sexual or emotional abuse imaginable often still love the family member. Resist the temptation to tell the child that the family member is bad or does not deserve to be loved. Resist the temptation to tell the child how he or she should feel about the family member. This can create more confusion or trauma.

“Yes, it is okay that you still love your family member.”

“Yes, it is okay that you do not love your family member right now. You may have different feelings about this later.”

“Your feelings may change often and that is also okay.”

What can I do to help my family member?

Often times, children feel like they need to be involve and help their family member in prison. Though sometimes there isn't much they can do, it's good to allow them to think that they can still connect with their family member.

“Everyone in the family needs to love and support each other by helping with chores at home and trying hard to be a good brother or sister.”

“You can write letters to your mom or dad in prison and let them know how you are doing in school.”

NOTES:

10 QUESTIONS A CHILD MIGHT ASK WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER IS ARRESTED

INTRODUCTION

The arrest of a family member is an immediate crisis like a house fire, car accident, serious illness, or death in the family. Children will probably react to the immediate event with fear, panic, and shock.

This situation will be worse if police arrive with their guns drawn and handcuff the family member. Adults also will be in crisis and possibly unavailable as support for the children. Depending on family dynamics, the children might be overlooked entirely.

The arrest of one or both parents robs children of their sense of security. Police or social workers may take them from the home and place them in foster care. If the parents produced methamphetamines in the home, the children may be stripped, bathed, dressed in unfamiliar clothes, and assessed by medical experts who are strangers to them.

Children need physical safety, reassurance, information, an introduction to new routines, support, kindness, and adult encouragement to ask questions. Caregivers must not expect children to hold the family together or postpone their grief.

If the children or other family members are victims (domestic abuse or incest, for example), the children will have mixed emotions. They might feel relief that the assaults will stop. They might feel guilty for reporting the crime or for not being able to stop the assaults. The family member might blame them for the arrest. They may be confused and sad. Children often love their parents even if those parents abuse them. Depending on what they have learned at home, children might see the police as the bad guys.

1. What happened?

“Someone thinks your family member broke an important rule (or law).”

“Your family member was arrested. That means the police took him to jail so they can talk about this more and figure out what really happened.”

2. Why did the police tie my family member up?

“When people are arrested, they might become angry and frightened. Sometimes they try to run away, even if it means hurting someone. The police put on handcuffs to make sure that your family member does not run away or hurt anyone. They will take off the handcuffs when they get to jail.”

3. What did my family member do?

Explaining any crime to a child can be difficult—depending on the child’s age. Keep it simple for now. *Provide no more information than the child can understand.*

“They think he stole something.”

“They think he broke a window and went into someone else’s house without asking.”

If the family member is accused of murder, assault, or rape, simplify it for the time being. If (s)he goes to trial or is convicted, you can provide the child with more details.

“They think (s)he hurt someone else.”

If the arrest involves manufacture and/or sale of dangerous drugs, the child could have been in imminent danger.

“Your parents are not able to keep you safe right now, so you are going to stay with me for a while.”

4. Will I ever see my family member again?

This is another tough question. Although the child will probably be reunited with the arrested family member, this is an uncertain and dangerous time for everyone.

“You will see your family member again, but it might not be very soon. We will have to wait and see.”

5. Is my family member safe?

If the family member left home in handcuffs, the child may be very anxious about safety. Also, they might have seen violence on TV associated with arrest and jail.

“The people who are in charge of the jail try very hard to keep everyone safe.”

If you know that the child trusts the police, explain that police officers run the jail. Otherwise, try telling the child that people who run the jail have been to school to learn how to keep people safe.

6. What will happen to my family member in jail?

“When your family member gets to jail, the police will ask lots of questions, and maybe take a picture. Your family member will stay in a small room with bars, called a cell. (S)he might share a cell with at least one other person. People in jail each have a bed with a blanket. Everyone in jail dresses the same in uniforms that look like pajamas or the clothes painters wear. They have three meals a day.”

7. When will (s)he come home from jail?

Immediately after arrest, no one knows when the family member will be released. It is best not to guess or make promises. People who are arrested seldom come home until they have been to court.

“We don’t know yet. Your family member will talk to a judge. The judge listens to everyone and then decides if your family member can come home soon or if he has to stay in jail for a while.”

You can add information if law enforcement or the court provides it.

“We know that (s)he will not be able to come home tonight or tomorrow night.”

8. Is it my fault my family member was arrested?

Especially if the arrest followed violence at home, children might think it is their fault. What they really want to know is whether anyone blames them for the arrest.

“It is not your fault. The police arrested your family member because (s)he might have broken an important rule called a law. Arrest can be a consequence for adults who don’t follow laws.”

9. What if I do something wrong? Will I go to jail too?

“If you do something wrong you might have a consequence like a time-out or not riding your bike for three days.”

“When you get older you could go to jail if you commit a crime. Teachers and other trusted adults can explain right and wrong to you, and how laws work, so you won’t commit a crime.”

10. My family member said (s)he didn’t do it. Did (s)he lie about this?

“We don’t know yet. Your family member will have a chance to explain to the judge what happened. This might take a longtime.”

Courts sometime schedule hearings months down the road, especially if the family member’s lawyer requests delays.

NOTES:

10 QUESTIONS A CHILD MIGHT ASK WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER GOES TO COURT

INTRODUCTION

After arrest, the family members (now called a suspect) will go to court more than once and possibly many times. The court process will be a time of great uncertainty for children and the entire family.

No one knows how long the court process will take or what will happen next. It could be weeks, months, or even years before the family member is convicted or set free. The family member might not come home at all during this time.

At the first court hearing, the judge will appoint a lawyer for your family member and may set a bond amount (sometimes called bail). If (s)he pays the bond, (s)he can go home between court hearings. Most suspects plead not guilty at first even if they committed the crime.

The family member might admit to the crime later or plead guilty to lesser charges in exchange for a lighter sentence (plea bargain). If your family member does not plead guilty, (s)he will have a trial.

Caregivers must use caution when deciding whether or not to take young children to court. Evidence against the family member can be traumatic and possibly harmful for children to hear. They love the family member but strangers will be making disturbing accusations. Consider the child's age, developmental level, and temperament. The suspect may not be allowed to have physical contact with the child in court.

If the crime was committed against the child, (s)he will have different emotions. Even if the child is a victim, (s)he probably loves the family member and might feel responsible for the arrest.

Children may have seen court events on TV in which the judge shouts at the accused person. They need reassurance that the judge and police will stop abuse and violence.

1. What is court?

“Court is where a judge listens to your family member and other people. The judge tries to find out what happened, and make a fair decision about what will happen next.”

If the judge does not grant bond, or the family member cannot afford the bond, the child will have more questions.



Picture of an Idaho Courtroom

(Cited: Idaho State Capitol Restoration <http://huntconstructiongroup.com/landmarks/openings/idah-state-capitol/>)

2. Could my family member come home if we had more money?

“The judge thinks it would be best right now for your family member to stay in jail until people figure out what happened.”

“It is not your fault that we do not have more money.”

If the family member bonds out of jail:

3. Are they letting my family member pay money to come home?

“They are letting your family member come home for a while because (s)he promised to go back and see the judge later. (S)he will get the money back later when (s)he keeps the promise. If your family member breaks the promise, (s)he will lose the money and may go back to jail.”

Some children will be curious and want to go to court, while others will be terrified at the thought. Court is difficult for most adults, and they may not be emotionally available to the child. Court generally is not a good place for young children. They have probably seen court portrayed on TV as abusive and violent, with people shouting at each other. Assure the child the family member will be safe.

4. Can I go to court too?

“You will not be going to court. Court is for adults. People will be talking about the crime they think your family member committed. You will stay home with (caregiver). The judge will find out the truth.”

“You would have to sit still and be quiet for a long time. We will stay home. Maybe we can read a book.”

If the child is the victim of the family member’s crime or witness to the crime, (s)he might have to testify. In these cases, lawyers will meet with the child in advance to explain things and attempt to create a comfortable environment. Let the child see the courtroom before the trial. Role-play and run a “dress rehearsal” so the child knows exactly what to expect when (s)he goes to court.

5. Why do I have to go to court? I’m scared.

“The judge wants to ask you some questions about what happened. I will be right there with you. Just tell the truth. It’s okay if you don’t remember everything. The judge will make sure that you are safe. He will not hurt or yell at you.”

If the caregiver is a parent, grandparent, or other family member, (s)he might have to go to court as a witness. Children will fear that this other loved adult will disappear.

6. Will they make you (the caregiver) stay in jail too?

“No. I am going to court because the judge asked me to tell what I know about your family member and the crime people say he did. I will not have to stay long or go to jail. I will be home in time to read you a story tonight.”

If the child goes to court, (s)he will have questions about everything. Read on...

7. Why do people have guns? Will they kill us?

“They wear guns and badges because they are police officers(or sheriff deputies). They will not kill anyone. Their job is to make sure people are safe in court.”

8. Why are people saying mean things about my family member?

“Some people are saying those things because they believe your family member committed a crime. That does not mean it’s true. We don’t know yet.”

Most suspects enter into a plea bargain. This means the family member agrees to plead guilty if the prosecutor will drop some of the charges or reduce them to something less serious. For example, (s)he might plead guilty to possession of drugs if the prosecutor will drop the charges of manufacturing drugs. In exchange for the guilty plea, the family member can expect a lighter sentence.

The alternative to a plea bargain is a trial at which the prosecutor must prove to a jury that the suspect committed the crime.

Even if a judge or jury does not convict the family member, life may not return to normal. Some members of the community will assume the criminal charges were true even if the prosecution did not prove them. Arrest and court events make headlines. The family member may lose his job. Neighbors and co-workers may eye the family with suspicion. If the family member victimized his spouse and children, a not-guilty verdict may be traumatic.

9. He did not do it, so why don’t people like us?

“Sometimes people are unfair. They believe your family member committed a crime because someone said he did. The judge decided he didn’t do the crime.”

10. He hurt us, so why did they let him go?

“Sometimes even judges can’t figure out what really happened.”

“We don’t know why and we may never know why. Right now we will do everything we can to keep you safe.”

10 QUESTIONS A CHILD MIGHT ASK WHEN A

FAMILY MEMBER IS CONVICTED

INTRODUCTION

Conviction means the family member was found guilty of a crime. Perhaps (s)he admitted to the crime as charged, or to lesser charges through a plea bargain. Perhaps the case went to trial, and the jury found the family member guilty.

Conviction is another time of crisis for the family members as they face the probability that a loved and trusted adult did such a thing. People sometimes are wrongfully convicted, but denial becomes more difficult with a conviction. The convicted person might appeal the conviction, which extends the uncertainty and postpones acceptance.

Regardless of the circumstances, the child's life will be changed forever by a conviction. If another family member is the victim, the child might feel relief about the conviction, but (s)he will also feel sadness, betrayal, and confusion, and probably guilt and shame. (S)he will miss this family member regardless of how bad things were.

1. My family member said (s)he didn't do it, so did (s)he tell a lie?

"Sometimes people are afraid to tell the truth so they lie. Sometimes people commit crimes and we cannot always understand why."

2. Does it mean (s)he lied about other things?

"No. Lying about this crime does not mean your family member lied about other things."

3. Is it my fault (s)he is not coming home?

"It is not your fault/our fault that your family member hurt you/us. It was his fault and he has to have consequences."

4. Why can't my family member tell the judge that (s)he is sorry and then come home?

"When people make small mistakes, like a child sneaks a cookie, (s)he can apologize and that's the end of it. When an adult breaks a law, they have bigger consequences. This was very serious crime because it hurt other people."

"The burglary victims are afraid to leave the house now."

"The person who was shot died and can't go home to his children or see his mom or dad again."

5. My family member said someone else helped him commit the crime. What happened to them?

"The other person also will have consequences."

"The judge decided that the other people did not do this."

6. Will my family member do this again?

“We don’t know. Your family member will have to decide if (s)he will obey the laws from now on. People will help him understand why what (s)he did was wrong. They will help him stop drinking/using drugs so maybe (s)he won’t commit more crimes.”

“We will work hard to keep you safe so your family member cannot hurt you again.”

7. Where are the people (s)he hurt?

“People who are hurt when someone breaks the law are called victims. The victims are going to be okay.”

“The victim died and her family is very sad.”

“The people who lived in the house that was burglarized are okay and your family member is going to pay them back for the things (s)he stole.”

8. Will the victims hurt us?

“The victims are very angry at your family member, but not at you. Remember that it is not your fault that (s)he committed a crime.”

“We will keep you safe. They will not hurt you.”

9. What will happen next?

“Your family member will have to stay in jail until the judge decides what the consequences will be. Consequences are called a sentence. We don’t know yet what the judge will decide.”

Judges in Idaho have an extraordinary number of sentencing options. Avoid predicting what will occur, even if the defense attorney has asked for a light sentence. A surprise at sentencing could cause the child to mistrust adults later.

It’s best never to tell a child that the family member might come home soon.

10. Can I tell the judge we need my family member back?

Most judges understand that children need their parents.

“One of the consequences for breaking a law is that your family member will have to be away from you.”

It is sad that children are forced to be away from their family member because he or she has committed a crime.

NOTES:

10 QUESTIONS A CHILD MIGHT ASK WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER IS SENTENCED

INTRODUCTION

Idaho judges have many sentencing choices. **Prison** is usually reserved for repeat offenders or those who have committed murder, aggravated assault, rape, or manufacture and sale of dangerous drugs.

A fair portion of sentencing in Idaho includes both **prison and suspended time**. After release from prison, the offender serves the suspended portion on probation. This allows offenders to return to the community with supervision. As probationers, the offenders must meet court-ordered conditions and report regularly to a probation officer.

Most crimes in Idaho involve alcohol or drugs, so judges usually require offenders to remain “clean and sober” on probation. They also must avoid bars and gambling. Mandatory counseling and addictions treatment are designed to meet individual needs. Probationers must find jobs and pay any court-ordered fines, child support, and victim restitution. Many first-time nonviolent offenders in Idaho who plead guilty receive **deferred sentences**. This means the judge postpones (defers) sentencing for a period of time and the offender agrees to obey probationary conditions. If the offender completes the deferred sentence without violations, the crime does not remain on the record. If the offender breaks probationary rules, the judge usually orders an arrest and hearing.

During the course of their sentences, inmates will experience many transfers between facilities. All male inmates begin their incarceration at the Reception and Diagnostic Unit (RDU) at Idaho State Correctional Institution south of Boise. All female inmates are sent to the RDU at Pocatello Women’s Correction Center in Pocatello. Inmates typically spend two to four weeks at RDU. During this time, they are photographed, fingerprinted, evaluated and classified. They receive a physical examination, a psychological evaluation, an educational assessment and a substance abuse evaluation. The Department creates a case plan to address the inmate’s needs. From RDU, inmates are transferred to the facility that is most appropriate for their level of custody and has a bed available. *A complete listing of facilities is available at idoc.idaho.gov.*

1. What is a sentence?

“A sentence is the consequence your family member will have for committing a crime. A sentence includes punishment such as jail or prison. Your family member might have to pay some money too.”

2. Who decides what happens to my family member?

“The judge and lawyers will listen to a lot of people like the police, lawyers, your family member, and the people who were hurt – the victims – before the judge decides the sentence.”

The judge will probably order your family member to receive help for problems (drinking, drugs, anger, etc.) and attend a special school to learn how to obey the law. ”

3. Can I tell the judge that I want my family member to come home?”

“Sentencing decisions are made by grown-ups. One of the consequences for committing a crime is that you and your family member might not get to live together for a while/a long time. You may miss your family member. It is sad that you have a consequence because you didn’t do anything wrong.”

Note: The caregiver might help the child write a letter to the judge or draw a picture as a way to express feelings.

4. My family member said (s)he wouldn’t do it again, so why can’t (s)he come home?

“When an adult commits a crime, the consequences are much bigger than when a child breaks a rule. Your family member needs help learning how to follow the law.”

5. Why did my family member get to come home the last time? (In instances of a deferred or suspended sentence)

“Last time the judge gave your family member another chance to follow the law since it was their first time making a bad choice. This time, she made another mistake, (s)he committed another crime. Now (s)he has more consequences and needs more help.”

6. My family member said (s)he would be coming home soon.

“Sometimes adults don’t tell a child something bad is going to happen because they don’t want the child to be afraid or sad. It’s too bad your family member promised (s)he would come home soon because the judge is the one who decides..”

7. Why doesn’t the judge like my family member?

“The judge must decide what is best for your family member. Sometimes consequences are the best thing for someone who commits a crime. This helps them learn how to behave themselves. Sometimes people need to be punished for hurting others. This does not mean the judge doesn’t like your family member.”

8. Other people do the same thing. Why don’t they get sentenced?

“It is not okay to do something wrong, even if you don’t get caught. People do not always get caught for committing a crime. Most people who commit crimes will get caught.”

9. Will my family member be killed?

“No. Being killed is not a consequence for committing a crime. Your family member will have consequences that (s)he will not like, but (s)he will not be killed.”

NOTE: A death sentence is so rare in Idaho that we did not address it in this manual. If the child is the victim, (s)he will have different questions.

10. Will the judge let him hurt us again?

“The judge will make rules for your family member to follow. The rules the judge makes for your family member are meant to keep you safe. We will do all we can to keep you safe.”

10 QUESTIONS A CHILD MIGHT ASK WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER GOES TO PRISON

INTRODUCTION

In most cases, a prison sentence will be another immediate family crisis, the worst-case scenario. Until now, adults and children in the family could hope for a better outcome such as a suspended sentence, deferred imposition of sentence, or a prison alternative. At this point in the process, it is certain that the family member won't be coming home any time soon.

On the other hand, if the family member committed crimes against the children or other adults in the family, a prison sentence guarantees a respite from the hurt, perhaps permanently, and might be a relief.

Prisons and jails are similar in appearance but they have different purposes. Jails are temporary holding facilities operated by cities, counties, and tribal governments. Suspects go to jail after arrest and before a court hearing or trial if they are not granted bond (or bail).

Offenders convicted of misdemeanors in Idaho also serve their sentences in local jails, often in the community in which they committed their crimes. Offenders sometimes remain in county jails for months after sentencing due to additional court hearings, or prison overcrowding.

Incarcerated people are called **inmates**.

Prisons in Idaho are large, secure facilities designed for felony offenders serving longer sentences. Prisons have more treatment, education and exercise options than jails.

The Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC) operates all prisons that house adult offenders who were convicted in state district courts.

IDOC's administrative offices are in Boise, Idaho.

1. When can I see or talk to my family member?

"I will find out the visiting rules and help you to see him."

Visiting rules are different for each jail and state prison. Sheriff's offices or tribal governments can provide jail-visiting rules. *For visiting rules, visit www.idoc.idaho.gov.*

2. When is my family member coming home?

Be careful not to give a child a firm date because prison release dates can change for many reasons, including parole (early release) or new criminal charges (extended stay). If you are reasonably certain when the sentence will end, try using a reference date that is important to the child.

“We believe (s)he might come home after two summers,” or “after three birthdays,” or “when you are 12 years old.”

3. Will my family member be safe?

“People who work at the prison are called correctional officers. They are much like police officers. They work very hard to make sure that your family member and the other inmates are safe. You will be safe when you visit.”

NOTE: Prisons in Idaho do not use the outdated term “guard” anymore because it has negative connotations. Today’s correctional officers are trained professionals who do more than “guard” the inmates. Caregivers and educators can compare them to police officers.

4. Where will my family member sleep?

“Your family member will sleep in a bed sort of like a camp cot in a small room with bars on the door, called a cell. (S)he will probably share a cell with at least one other person, sometimes called a cellie.”



A room at South Boise Women's Correctional Center



A view from one of the rooms at Tower 1 of Idaho State Correctional Institution

5. What will (s)he wear?

“Inmates wear identical uniforms that look like doctor or nurse “scrubs.” They also have socks and shoes, provided by the prison.”



Examples of typical inmate clothing

6. What will (s)he eat?

“The prison serves three meals a day on trays in a cafeteria similar to the one you have at school. Some inmates eat meals in their cells. Inmates can also buy snacks from a prison shop called a commissary.”



Example of food trays

7. How will my family member spend his/her time in prison?

“People read books, write letters, and go outside or to a gym for exercise. They attend classes that help them learn how to obey rules, be better parents, stop drinking alcohol or taking drugs, and be less angry. Most prisons have classes for inmates who want to earn their high school degree or study for college.”



Picture of a typical library



Picture of a classroom



Interior of a bus

8. What will it be like to visit prison?

Every prison is different. You will be informed about the rules in advance. This is a general answer to help children envision the visit and perhaps lessen their fear:

“You will be with me (or other adult caregiver) the entire time. Before we go, the prison will tell us what we can wear and what we can and cannot bring into the prison. Going into the prison will be sort of like going through airport security (if the child has been to an airport). We will be checked to be sure we don’t have cell phones or other things that are not allowed in prison. We will visit in a special room with tables and chairs. Most prison visiting rules have books and toys for children to enjoy. Your family member will meet us there.”

Note: Visiting rules can be found at your local prison or visit www.idoc.idaho.gov/our_facilities/visiting_conduct.htm for more information

****Beginning in June 2011, Ada County will move strictly to video visitation****



Visiting at the Idaho State Correctional Institution

9. Will anyone hurt us?

Public safety is the top priority at IDOC correctional facilities. Staff will take any action necessary to protect visitors, other staff, and inmates. Visits include some risks, which staff members will explain to visitors. Young children probably do not need to be told that a prison visit involves risk. However, it might be a good idea to explain that a stranger (security staff) will be touching them during the search.

“The people who work at the prison will keep us safe. You will not be left alone at any time in the prison. It might be scary at first to be in a prison but no one will hurt us.”

10. What if I do something wrong? Will I have to go to prison?

“If you do something wrong you will have a consequence like “time out” or not riding your bike for three days. You will not go to prison.”

10 QUESTIONS A CHILD MIGHT ASK WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER IS ON PROBATION OR PAROLE

INTRODUCTION

1. What will my family member be like when (s)he gets out of prison?

“Your family member is used to living in a small cell and obeying many rules, eating what they give him to eat, and wearing prison clothes. It will take a while for him or her to adjust to being home. We will all have to get used to being a family again. People will help you with this.”

2. What will happen to my family member on probation/parole?

Parole or probation after a time in prison:

“Because your family member committed a crime and had to be in prison, now (s)he must prove to people that (s)he can follow the rules. (S)he will meet (daily, weekly or monthly) with a probation and parole (P&P) officer to make sure he is following the rules.”

Sentenced to probation with no prison:

“The judge decided that your family member can come home instead of going to prison. (S)he will have special rules to follow, including a meeting every week/month with a probation and parole (P&P) officer who enforces the rules.”

3. What does a P&P officer look like?

“P&P officers look just like other people. They can be men or women. They are like police officers except that they don’t wear uniforms. They have badges and sometimes they carry guns. A P&P officer might come to your home sometimes to make sure your family member is following the rules. If you are afraid or don’t feel safe with your family member, you can tell the P&P officer and (s)he will help you.”



A typical Parole Officer Uniform



Probation Officer’s Badge

4. Will the same P&P officer always come to our house?

“The officer might change sometime. Even if the P&P officer changes, you will be safe when (s)he is in your home.”

A child will probably experience many disappointments when a loved one is bound by travel, time, and activity restrictions. You might try focusing on the positive aspects of community supervision instead of prison.

5. Why can't my family member come to my ball game, go shopping with me, or take us to Grandma's for Thanksgiving?

"Your family member is lucky to be at home instead of in prison, but (s)he has many rules to follow. One of the rules is that (s)he cannot leave town (or the county) without special permission. I'll go to your ball game/shopping with you. Maybe Grandma can come here for Thanksgiving."

6. Why can't we have a hamburger at (the local restaurant and bar)?

"We talked about how your family member gets in trouble when he drinks alcohol (or gambles). One of the rules says that (s)he cannot go places where (s)he might be tempted to drink or play the machines. Our old restaurant serves alcohol. Let's make hamburgers at home/get the hamburgers to go/ try another restaurant that doesn't serve alcohol."

7. How long does probation (or parole) last?

"The judge decided that your family member will be on probation for 10 years. That means you will be in high school."

"Your family member will be finished with parole when you are 13 years old."

8. What will happen if my family member breaks a rule of probation?

"The P&P officer would have to decide what to do. Sometimes a family member can have another chance but he has to agree not to get in any more trouble. If (s)he breaks the rules again, a judge might have to decide whether to send your family member to prison."

9. My family member drank some beer and they took him or her back to jail. What will happen?

"We don't know yet. Sometimes people on probation (or parole) go to a special program for a few months to learn how to stop drinking alcohol. Your family member knows the rules and (s)he made a bad choice. (S)he will have consequences."

10. Why doesn't my family member have enough money to buy me new tennis shoes or a new toy?

"The judge told your family member that he must pay for the damage he caused when he ran into the other people's car. One of the people was hurt in the wreck and because it was your family member's fault, he will be paying the doctor bills. These bills are some of the consequences and your family member may not be able to buy you some things you would want."

Idaho Facilities

BOISE

East Boise Community Work Center

The first work center in Idaho. In September of 1988 it became an all-female facility. A new addition was built in 2002, increasing the facility's capacity.



Opened in July 1980

Safe Operating Capacity: 100

Address: 2366 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712

Telephone: 208-334-3448

Idaho Correctional Center (ICC)



ICC opened in July 2000 as the first state-owned, privately run facility. It was built on state property by the Corrections Corp. of America (CCA) and is currently run by CCA. It houses medium and minimum custody male offenders.

Safe Operating Capacity: 1,514

Physical Address: 14601 S. Pleasant Valley Rd, Kuna, ID 83634

Mailing Address: PO Box 70010, Boise, ID 83707

Telephone: 208-331-2760

Idaho Maximum Security Institution (IMSI)



IMSI opened in November 1989 to confine Idaho's most violent offenders. The compound is located within a double perimeter fence reinforced with razor wire and an electronic detection system. The offender population is comprised of a large number of mental health offenders, including civil commitments. Thirty beds are dedicated for acute mentally ill. IMSI has restrictive housing beds dedicated to administrative segregation, disciplinary detention and death row. The remaining beds are allocated for close-custody general population offenders.

Safe Operating Capacity: 517

Address: 13400 S. Pleasant Valley Rd, Kuna, ID 83634

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 51, Boise, ID 83707

Telephone: 208-338-1635

Idaho State Correctional Institution (ISCI)

ISCI is the department's oldest and largest facility. It is the primary facility for long-term male, medium-custody offenders. It also has special-use beds for infirmary, outpatient mental health and geriatric offenders. The institution is surrounded by a double fence, which is patrolled by sentry dogs. There also are seven towers to monitor perimeter security and offender movement. The compound includes a chapel, recreation center, school, large correctional industries operation and a medical clinic.

Safe Operating Capacity: 1,490

Physical Address only: 13500 S. Pleasant Valley Rd, Kuna, ID 83634

Please send all mail to:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14, Boise, ID 83707

Telephone: 208-336-0740

South Boise Women's Correctional Center (SBWCC)



The South Boise Women's Correctional Center is a minimum/community custody facility for the female offender population. The facility provides three distinct programs--the court's Retained Jurisdiction program, the Therapeutic Community (TC) and the CAPP (or Correctional Alternative Placement Program). We provide programs that bring possibility for cognitive and behavioral change, through research based innovative programming, education, accountability, and recovery opportunities.

Safe/Current Operating Capacity: 284

Address: 13200 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Kuna, ID 83634

Telephone: (208) 334-2731 Fax: (208) 334-2251

South Idaho Correctional Institution (SICI)



SICI is a working facility, which houses male minimum-custody offenders in a dormitory setting. Every offender is assigned a job and is expected to work whether inside or outside the facility compound. Road crews for the Idaho Transportation Department and firefighting crews for the U.S. Forest Service are located here. SICI also operates the final pre-release program for about 90 percent of male offenders paroling from the system.

SICI also has one unit separated from the main facility which is devoted to a Retained Jurisdiction program for 100 female offenders.

Safe Operating Capacity: 728

Address: 13900 S. Pleasant Valley Rd, Kuna, ID 83634

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8509, Boise ID 83707

Telephone: 208-336-1260

South Idaho Correctional Institution Community Work Center

SICI-CWC opened in August of 2004. A new building was added in June on 2009 that is used for Classrooms, Visiting and Administrative Offices.



Opened in 2004

Safe Operating Capacity: 100

Address: 14195 S. Pleasant Valley Road, Kuna, ID 83634

Telephone: 208-334-2241

Idaho Correctional Alternative Placement Program (CAPP)

The Correctional Alternative Placement Program (CAPP) facility opened July 1st 2010, Management Training Corporation (MTC) built the facility and will operate the program. CAPP offers a 90-day treatment for substance abuse and cognitive issues for low to moderate risk male offenders needing substance abuse treatment.

It will house three different groups of offenders: Probationers, parolees and retained jurisdiction.



Opened in July 2010

Safe Operating Capacity: 432

Address: 15505 S. Pleasant Valley Road, Kuna, ID 83634

Telephone 208-336-9959

COTTONWOOD

North Idaho Correctional Institution (NICI)



NICI is a former military radar station north of the small town of Cottonwood. This is a program-specific prison designed for male offenders sentenced to a retained jurisdiction commitment by the court. It provides a sentencing alternative for the courts to target those offenders who might, after a period of programming and evaluation, be viable candidates for probation rather than incarceration.

Safe Operating Capacity: 399

Address: 236 Radar Rd. Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

Telephone: 208-962-3276

IDAHO FALLS

Idaho Falls Community Work Center

Opened in 1996
Safe Operating Capacity: 72
Address: 3955 Bombardier Ave.,
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Telephone: 208-525-7143



NAMPA

Nampa Community Work Center

Opened in 1985
Safe Operating Capacity: 84
Address: 1640 11th Avenue North, Nampa, ID 83687
Telephone: 208-465-8490



OROFINO

Idaho Correctional Institution (ICIO)



ICI-O is a modified old state school and hospital mental health building. A new wing was added in 1988. It is a standard prison designed for male offenders of all custody levels. This facility also houses protective custody offenders. Until April 1994, the state's female offenders were housed in one tier here, but due to litigation, females are now housed at the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center. Offender work programs, including correctional industries, are coordinated with schooling, counseling and recreational opportunities.

Safe Operating Capacity: 541
Address: 381 W. Hospital Drive, Orofino, ID 83544
Telephone: 208-476-3655

POCATELLO

Pocatello Women's Correctional Center (PWCC)



PWCC is the department's first facility designed specifically to meet the unique program needs of female offenders. It opened in April 1994 and houses all custody levels. The institution has its own reception and diagnostic center, pre-release program and work center release.

Safe Operating Capacity: 299

Address: 1451 Fore Road, Pocatello, ID 83204

Telephone: 208-236-6360

ST. ANTHONY'S

St. Anthony work Camp (SAWC)



This work camp, located in the small, eastern Idaho town of St. Anthony, is designed for low-risk, minimum- and community-custody male offenders. The program focus is to provide a work therapy program offering full-time, constructive, paid employment to offenders through contracted work and public service projects with government agencies, non-profit organizations and private employers. The program helps offenders develop good work habits, a positive work ethic and marketable work skills while providing a financial resource to meet immediate and future needs.

Safe Operating Capacity: 230

Address: 125 N. 8th West, St. Anthony ID 83445

Telephone: 208-624-3775

TWIN FALLS

Twin Falls Community Work Center

Opened in 1992

Safe Operating Capacity: 84

Address: 616 Washington Street South, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Telephone: 208-736-3095



NOTES:

Community Corrections Probation & Parole Offices

District 1

Main

202 Anton, First Floor
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
Phone: 208-769-1444

Satellite Office

SANDPOINT
P.O. Box 1971 (212 N. First Ave., Suite 304)
Sandpoint, ID 83864-0905
Phone: 208-263-0455

District 2

Main

P.O. Box 1408
Lewiston, ID 83501
Phone: 208-799-5030

Satellite Offices

OROFINO
Federal Bldg., Room #309, (P.O. Box 428)
Orofino, ID 83544
Phone: 208-476-4357

MOSCOW
316 N. Main
Moscow, ID 83843
Phone: 208-883-3547

District 3

Main

612 Main Street
Caldwell, ID 83605
Phone: 208-454-7601

Satellite Office

PAYETTE
540 S. 16th Street, Ste. 106
Payette, ID 83661
Phone: 208/642-0750

District 4

PSI Unit

2161 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, ID 83712-8248
Phone: 208-334-3190

Probation & Parole

8752 W. Fairview Ave
Boise, ID 83704
Phone: 208-327-7008

Satellite Offices

VISTA Substation
2721 S Vista Ave
Boise, ID 83705
Phone: 208-703-5659

KUNA
247 Kay Rd
Kuna, ID 83634
Phone: 208-922-2908

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>MERIDIAN 1401 E. Watertower Lane, Room 103 Meridian, ID 83642 Phone: 208-846-7490 or 846-7391</p> <p>MCCALL 106 Park St, Room 104 McCall, ID 83638 Phone: 208-634-0018</p> | <p>MOUNTAIN HOME 630 South Haskett (P.O. Box 127) Mountain Home, ID 83647 Phone: 208-587-8170</p> <p>EAGLE 1121 E. State St. Suite 104 Eagle, Idaho 83616. Phone: 208-939-0410</p> |
| District 5 | |
| <p>Main 594 Washington Street South Twin Falls, ID 83301 Phone: 208-736-3080</p> | <p>Satellite Offices</p> <p>BURLEY 1354 Albion Ave. Burley, ID 83318 Phone: 208-878-2530</p> <p>GOODING 141 7th Ave. East Gooding, Idaho 83330 Phone: 208-934-5254</p> |
| District 6 | |
| <p>Main 1135 Yellowstone, Suite K Pocatello, ID 83201 Phone: 208-237-9194</p> | <p>Satellite Office</p> <p>PRESTON 17 South 1st West P.O. Box 429 Preston, ID 83264 Phone: 208-852-3017</p> |
| District 7 | |
| <p>Main 2048 East 17th Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83404 Phone: 208-528-4220</p> | <p>Satellite Offices</p> <p>BLACKFOOT 120 S. Broadway Blackfoot, ID 83221 Phone: 208-785-2883</p> <p>REXBURG 310 N. 2nd E. Suite 115 Rexburg, ID 83440 Phone: 208-356-3772</p> |

Idaho Department of Corrections – Facility Locations

Boise

- East Boise Community Work Center
- Idaho Correctional Center (ICC)
- Idaho Maximum Security Institution (IMSI)
- Idaho State Correctional Institution (ISCI)
- South Boise Women's Correctional Center (SBWCC)
- South Idaho Correctional Institution (SICI)
- South Idaho Correctional Institution (CWC)
- Idaho Correctional Alternative Placement Program (CAPP)

Cottonwood

- North Idaho Correctional Institution (NICI)

Idaho Falls

- Idaho Falls Community Work Center

Nampa

- Nampa Community Work Center

Orofino

- Idaho Correctional Institution (ICIO)

Pocatello

- Pocatello Women's Correctional Center (PWCC)

St. Anthony

- St. Anthony Work Camp (SAWC)

Twin Falls

- Twin Falls Community Work Center



IDOC Facility Locator Map



Resources for Educators, Caregivers and Children

Educators and Caregivers:

Children of Incarcerated Parents

By Katherine Gabel and Denise Johnston

Published by Lexington Books, 1998

Family Arrested

By Anne Edenfield

Published by Americana, 2002

Loving Through Bars: Children with Parents in Prison

By Cynthia Martone

Published by Santa Monica Press, 2005

Children:

A Terrible Thing Happened – A story for children who have witnessed violence or trauma

By Margaret Holmes

Published by Magination, 2000

Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights

By Julie Nelson

Published by Free Spirit Publishing, 2006

Moving Day

By Monelle Smith and The United Way of the Treasure Valley 2011 Junior Service Club

Published by The Claxton Printers LTD, 2011

www.familyadvocate.org/Resources.aspx

My Daddy is in Jail: Story, Discussion Guide and Small Group Activity Guide for Grades K-5

By Janet M. Bender

Published by YouthLight, 2003

Visiting Day

By Jacqueline Woodson

Published by Scholastic Press, 2002

What is Jail, Mommy?

By Jackie Stanglin

Published by Lifevest Publishing, 2006

What Happens in Court? An answer and activity book for kids who are going to court.

Published by: Idaho Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk

Website: www.idcartf.org

What's my job in court? An answer and activity book for kids who are going to court.

Published by: Idaho Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk

Website: www.idcartf.org

When Andy's Father Went to Prison

By Martha W. Hickman

Published by Albert Whitman and Company, 1990

Mentoring and Support

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Idaho, INC

- Provides mentors for youth with additional focus to children who have absent parents
Address: 2404 W Bank Drive, Suite 302, Boise, ID 83705,
Phone: 208-377-2552
Website: <http://www.bbbsidaho.org>

Grandparents as Parents of the Treasure Valley, Southwest Idaho

- Support groups for grandparents and other relatives raising children
Phone: 208-323-7538
Website: <http://www.idahograndparentsasparents.org>

Organizations and Other Resources

National Institute of Corrections

- Information and resources for inmates and their families
Website: <http://nicic.gov/>

Lives in Focus: Family Life Behind Bars

- Networking and other information for families
Website: <http://prison.livesinfocus.org/>

Idaho Department of Corrections

- Visiting Information
- Offender Search
- Facilities Locations
- Victim Services
- Frequently Asked Questions
Address and Phone:
1299 N. Orchard St., Suite 110
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 658-2000
Email: inquire@idoc.idaho.gov
Website: www.idoc.idaho.gov/index.htm

Family and Corrections Network (FCN)

- Articles, brochures, etc. for educators and caregivers
- Children of prisoners library
- Directory of Programs serving children and families of the incarcerated
Website: www.fcnetwork.org/

Idaho Criminal Justice Commission

- Children of Incarcerated Parents Sub-Committee
- Information about the project
Contact: Ross Mason
Email: MasonR@dhw.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Website: www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/

Idaho 2-1-1 CareLine

- Free, statewide community information and referral service
Website: www.idahocareline.org
Phone: 2-1-1

Self-Rescue Manual

- Support Services
- Counseling Services
- Resource Guide
Website: <http://selfrescuemanual.com/uploads/manual.pdf>

REFERENCES

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This toolkit was modeled on a similar document produced by the Montana Alliance of Families in 2009. It seems the difficulties faced by children of incarcerated parents are the same in Montana as they are in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and any number of other states.

A lot of very smart people worked on revising the document to meet our needs in Idaho before it ended up in your hands. These people belong to the Children of Incarcerated Parents committee (COIP), a body created by the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission in 2009.

The committee was charged with building a positive culture that breaks the cycle of prison life for families. Children can and should expect a life that allows them to be their best even though their parents made some big mistakes along the way. A parents time in prison should not mean a child will follow that same path.

We ask that you use this document to help us in that endeavor. Use it at every opportunity. Wear it out if necessary — we'll provide another. And tell us about your experience. Please send any comments, suggestions or feedback to information@familyadvocate.org.

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Idaho Department of Corrections
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Idaho Department of Education
Catholic Charities of Idaho
Idaho Youth Ranch
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Idaho Family Advocates
Ada County Sheriff's Office